



# Shelley First School

Together we succeed



**Headteacher: Mrs D Knowles**

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware, we are currently offering on-site childcare provision based at Shelley First School. Our skeleton staff team are very happy to support what constitutes a national crisis. In effect, we are now also Key Workers.

I am sure that you saw the instructions from our Prime Minister regarding social distancing and urging everyone to try to stay at home if at all possible. With this in mind I am asking you to ensure that you comply with the following please:

1. You only access the provision if there is absolutely **no alternative** child care at home for your child. Please note that if you are a key worker and another person is at home you should ideally manage childcare yourselves.
2. If you are a key worker and working at home, we expect that you manage your childcare yourself. Our children currently at school are managing to entertain themselves without direct teaching and with minimal instruction. I feel sure that they could do this at home.
3. You provide us with proof that all carers within the home are key workers and that shift patterns are the same for everyone in the home. Most non-essential businesses are now closed and this may ease your situation at home. If you have already provided this proof, you will not need to so again.
4. If you no longer require childcare please email [office@shelleyfirstschool.co.uk](mailto:office@shelleyfirstschool.co.uk) as soon as possible as we will remove you from our provision list. If you have already done this, many thanks for doing so.

I know that if you have no alternative as all carers are key workers on the same shifts you will have no choice but to send your child into school. I thank you for your service and recognise the difficult decisions that you have to make regarding childcare. My heart goes out to you as a parent.

I have a duty of care to my teams at Shelley and Birdsedge and to their families - some of whom are also vulnerable. Some of our staff have similar issues to our parents and single parent staff have to bring their own children into work with them in order to care for the children of others. This goes against the Government guidance but all staff want to support other Key Workers.

I do not wish to cause offence to any of our parents but I am sure that you will understand the need to provide care for only those who really need it. The risk of sending children and staff into school is significant.

With best wishes to you all - stay safe!

Debra Knowles

